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LB 496, 849

Tyson's questions begin to illuminate some of the issues that are out there. Actually Senator Chris Peterson, I think, has highlighted. There's a difference between Senator Bromm and I and the understanding of what the power of the city may be in terms of the location of where the right of way may be. Between now and Select File I intend to flush that out, so we can reach some agreement, so you don't have a vastly different legislative history. I thank the committee for their hard work. And, Senator Beutler, I would...I know that you had a number of other questions. I would hope that between now and Select File we could work those out. I'd appreciate the vote on the advancement at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 496 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 496.

SENATOR BOHLKE: LB 496 is advanced. LB 849.

CLERK: Madam President, 849, introduced by Senator Hartnett. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20, referred to Urban Affairs, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Madam President.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman, members of the body, this is the Volunteer Emergency Response Recruitment and Retention Act, basically the same as 1293 of last year. What it does, it does a number of things, but authorizes but does not require cities, villages, and fire protection districts to establish service award benefit programs to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel--to help recruit and retain, that's really the purpose of the bill. There are 492 fire departments in the state. It does not require them to be part of this program, but it simply leaves it as an option for them. It provides, and this is part of the committee amendment, with a limited one-year life span, to create uniform criteria within classes of subdivisions in areas of the state for defining what